

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

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----- 102311

P 302040Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, US

SUBJECT: PRESS ARTICLES ON SOGHOIAN ARREST

REF: STATE 172623

1. AUG. 30 WASHINGTON POST CARRIED DETAILED FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE HEADLINED "U.S. CITIZEN ARRESTED AS AGENT FOR ZAMBIA." ARTICLE COMBINES CONTENTS OF FBI PRESS RELEASE (REFTEL) WITH STATEMENTS CONTAINED BELOW.

2. ALTHOUGH SOGHOIAN WAS ORDERED HELD ON DOLS 250,000 BOND, GOVERNMENT ATTORNEYS HAD REQUESTED BOND TO BE FIXED AT DOLS 500,000 BECAUSE HE "HAS ACCESS TO VIRTUALLY UNLIMITED AMOUNTS OF CASH." U.S. ATTORNEY HAROLD SULLIVAN SAID INVESTIGATORS DISCOVERED IN SOGHOIAN'S HOTEL ROOM A CANCELLED CHECK FOR DOLS 270,000 AND ON AUG.29 FOUND IN A SAFE DEPOSIT BOX BELONGING TO HIM A CASHIER'S CHECK FOR DOLS 190,000. PROSECUTORS SAID HE OFTEN CARRIED AS MUCH AS DOLS 30,000 IN CASH. GOVT. ATTORNEYS SAID SOGHOIAN HAD TOLD SOME U.S. BUSINESSMEN THAT HIS ANNUAL SALARY WAS DOLS 40-50,000 PLUS EXPENSES. SULLIVAN SAID HIS PERSONAL CHECKING ACCOUNT CONTAINED DOLS 70,000 WHEN ARRESTED. SOGHOIAN

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REPORTEDLY TOLD SEVERAL U.S. BUSINESSMEN THAT HE OPERATED

ON A BUDGET IN EXCESS OF DOLS 20 MILLION.

3. SULLIVAN SAID EVIDENCE SEIZED AUG. 27 IN HIS HOTEL ROOM
ALSO INDICATED POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS OF U.S. ESPIONAGE

STATUTES.

4. ZAMBIAN CHARGE SIYOLWE STATED AUG. 29 THAT SOGHOIAN
IS AN EMPLOYEE OF GRZ AND "MERELY ADVISES ON MARKET PO-
TENTIALS IN U.S." SIYOLWE ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING "HE IS
NOT ACTING AS AN ILLEGAL AGENT AND WE ARE NOT AWARE OF
ANY CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH HE MIGHT BE CHARGED AS ONE.
HE TRAVELS A GREAT DEAL BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND WASHINGTON."
SIYOLWE DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT TYPE OF EQUIPMENT
SOGHOIAN ALLEGEDLY PURCHASED FOR ZAMBIA AND DENIED
CLAIM IN FBI AFFIDAVIT THAT SOGHOIAN TOLD ONE U.S. BUSI-
NESSMAN THAT HE WAS RIGHT-HAND MAN TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA.
SIYOLWE ADDED "HE BOUGHT THINGS OF A GENERAL NATURE. I
DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANYTHING ELECTRONIC. IT WAS SOME
MACHINERY. IT'S JUST SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING
ABOUT." LATE AUG. 29 SIYOLWE REVERSED HIS POSITION AND
SAID "OFFICIALLY, THE ZAMBIAN EMBASSY IS NOT IN POSITION
TO MAKE ANY COMMENT AT ALL."

5. AUGUST 29 WASHINGTON EVENING STAR CARRIED SHORT ARTICLE
BASED ON FBI PRESS RELEASE. ROGERS

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